

Ministry Insights for Church Leaders

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Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: 5 Views

Gaining form and momentum over the second half of the 20th century, the Church Growth Movement has become an enormous shaping force on the Western church today. You may love it, you may hate it, but you can't deny its impact.

But what exactly is Church Growth? In what ways has the movement actually brought growth to the church, and how effective has it been in doing so?

What are its strengths and weaknesses? This timely book addresses such questions. After providing a richly informative history and overview, it explores—in a first-ever roundtable of their leading voices—five main perspectives, both pro and con, on the classic Church Growth Movement:

- Effective Evangelism View (Elmer Towns)
- Gospel and Our Culture View (Craig Van Gelder)
- Centrist View (Charles Van Engen)
- Reformist View (Gailyn Van Rheen)
- Renewal View (Howard Snyder)

Each view is first presented by its proponent, then critiqued by his co-contributors. The book concludes with reflections by three seasoned pastors who have grappled with the practical implications of Church Growth.

The interactive and fair-minded nature of the

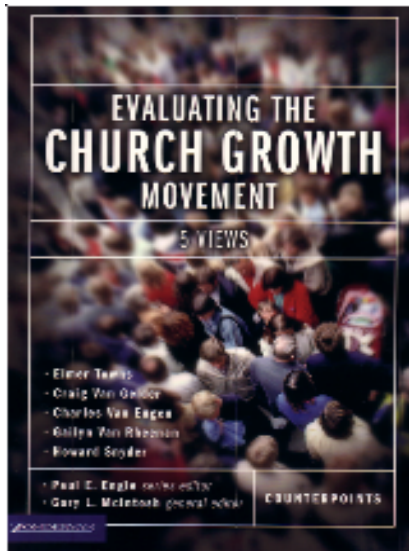
format allows the reader to consider the strengths and weaknesses of each view and draw informed, personal conclusions.

Each of the contributors agree that the Church Growth Movement has been, and continues to be, extremely influential. Of course, some believe this influence is positive, while others see it as somewhat negative. But they all admit the Church Growth Movement cannot be ignored.

The positions and responses of each contributor will stimulate a great deal of personal reflection.

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